

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02 IO-10 /042 W

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P R 171410Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2935

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR BE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH BELGIUM

1. CONSULTATIONS OPENED JANUARY 15 IN RELATIVELY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE, WHICH HAS BEEN SUSTAINED THROUGH TALKS THUS FAR. IN OPENING STATEMENT, BELGIANS MAINTAINED THAT QUESTIONS OF PASSENGER AND CARGO CAPACITIES OVER NORTH ATLANTIC ROUTES ARE BOUND UP WITH ISSUES INVOLVED IN CHARTER SERVICES AGREEMENT (WHICH EXPIRES AT THE END OF CALENDAR 1975), AND WITH BELGIAN DESIRE FOR SABENA LANDING RIGHTS AT SECOND US GATEWAY. BELGIANS TAKE POSITION THAT UNDER 1946 BILATERAL US DESIGNATED CARRIER WAS GIVEN SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER OPPORTUNITY IN THE MARKET THAN THE BELGIAN CARRIER, BUT THAN PANAM HAS NEGLECTED THESE OPPORTUNITIES. ON OTHER HAND, THEY AGREE THAT WE HAVE MUTUAL PROBLEM OF ASSURING PROFITABILITY OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC IN A DECLINING MARKET.

2. BELGIANS SAY THAT SABENA HAS ALREADY RESPONDED UNILATERALLY TO CHANGING MARKET CONDITIONS BY RECONFIGURING THEIR BOEING 747S TO REDUCE PASSENGER SEATS OFFERED BY SOME

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30 PERCENT, WHILE INCREASING CARGO CAPACITY.

3. TOWARDS END OF JAN. 16 SESSION, USDEL PROPOSED THE
OUTLINES OF A STANDARD FOR APPROPRIATE CAPACITIES UNDER
PRESENT CONDITIONS. BELGIAN SIDE HAS NOT CONCEDED THAT
NUMERICAL STANDARDS ARE APPROPRIATE OR CALLED FOR BY THE
BILATERAL. THEY HAVE NOT STATED WHETHER THEIR RESPONSE
JAN. 17 WILL BE GIVEN IN THE TERMS OF THE US PROPOSAL.RENNER

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